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Witness Statement
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CIRP 01-08

Currently the Board of Corrections provides biannual inspections to county juvenile and adult facilities as well as oversight of training programs. The Board is also comprised of 15 representatives, many of which constitute local members of corrections and public safety. The proposed recommendation will result in the board moving into the Department of Corrections Services to provide the same types of services to state adult and juvenile facilities. What will the new makeup of any be of the policy board that guides the staff of the board of corrections. The potential loss of local input and expertise as well as the services provided could result in significant additional local duties, responsibilities and costs. Lastly, having the entity responsible for setting the standards and inspecting for compliance as part of the same agency it is inspecting does not give the appearance of true impartial inspection and oversight.

CIRP 07-01

We agree that the factors noted certainly affect the prison population size, but would point out that there certainly is a fourth factor that is as important and may have more impact on the prison population. The fourth factor is the services provided at the local level to the adult probation population. The vast majority of all prison inmates were probationers prior to their incarceration in state facilities. During the last decade counties and the state have put significant resources into juvenile prevention services at the probation and community levels through, Title IV-E, TANF, JJCPA, Challenge Grants and juvenile facility construction funds. The result has been a dramatic decrease in juvenile crime statewide, and a significant decrease in commitments to both local and state facilities CYA being a prime example of this. During this time the services provided to adult probationers has been nearly non-existent. Other than isolated drug court or mentally ill offender programs. Throughout the state many felons on probation and virtually all misdemeanants go unsupervised by probation departments because of a lack of funds. Given appropriate funds and supervision paired with programs many of your state inmates would be diverted from state custody and remain in local programs at much less cost to the state and ultimately much less cost to the taxpayer. The potential saving are tremendous. Please don't focus on the back door to the system when keeping people from entering the front door is much more effective and prudent.

CIRP 08-17

The adjustment of the sliding scale needs to be reasonable to allow for all counties to access the programs. Programs that are provided must be cost effective and efficient and reflect what are the best treatment options while maintaining a reasonable cost rate. In many small and medium sized counties local options for those type offenders are very limited. Logic would tell us that the cost to incarcerate an auto thief certainly should not exceed those costs associated with a serious violent felon.

CIRP 08-18

Steps towards greater local control were begun with Senator Burton's SB 459 legislation. We continue to support the opportunity for greater local control over CYA sentence lengths as well as add ons in addition to greater communication between the YA and Probation as well as the Courts. The final determination as to the mechanism or to what shape this recommendation should take rightly rests with the courts. I am sure the judicial council will weigh in on this topic.

CIRP 08-22

The Chief Probation Officers of California has been engaged in dialogue relating to realignment of CYA parole services to county probation departments through the Juvenile Justice Reform Group chaired by Undersecretary Kevin Carruth. This group has recently been reconvened with meetings et for later this month in Sacramento. CPOC is prepared to continue the dialogue in this area. It is our belief however, that bifurcating the YA parole population as recommended is not the most effective or efficient way to serve the population and would result in less than desirable outcomes. It would be our position that realignment of these services should include the entire population as well as sufficient funding to provide the services. Each local Probation Department has the expertise and skill as well as access to local resources to provide effective services to the YA parole population regardless of level.